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OF THE

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A NARRATIVE IN RHYME,

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MEMORABLES

OF THE

MONTGOMERIES.

A Noble Roman was the root
From which Montgomeries came,
Who brought his legion from the war,
And settled the same
Upon an hill 'twixt Rome and Spain,
† Gomericus by name;
From which he and his off-spring do
Their sir-name still retain.
From this unto the wars of France,
Their valour did them bring,
That they great instruments might be,
To save the Gallic king:
Here with great splendor and renown,
Six centuries they spend:
At length for England they set sail;
Ambition hath no end.

† Mons Gomericus.

On British ground they land at length,
Rodger must general be,
A cousin of the conqueror's,
And fittest to supplie
The greatest post into the field,
The army then leads he
Into a camp, Hastings by name,
In Sussex where you'll see
The marks of camps unto this day;
And where you'll hear it told,
The English king did them attack
Most like a captain bold.
But soon, alas! he found it vain,
With Rodger arms to try:
This warry officer prepares,
His projects to defy.
The strong attacks he then observes,
Which made him thence to dread,
That England's king might be among
Those who charg'd with such speed:

The life-guards straight he ordered,
Their fury to defend;
Where Harold, England's king at once,
His crown and life did end.
Whence to the conqueror did come
The English scepter great,
And William, England's king declar'd,
To London came in state.
† Earl Rodger then the greatest man,
Next to the king was thought;
And nothing that he could desire,
But it to him was brought.
Montgomery town, Montgomery shire
And earl of Shrewsburie,
And Arundale do shew this man,
Of grandeur full to be.
Thus did he live all this king's reign:
For works of piety,
He built an abbacie and then,
Prepar'd himself to die.

† Dugdale's Baronage, and Histories of England.

At last king William yields to fate;
And then his second son
Mounts on the throne, which had almost
The kingdom quite undone:
Some for the eldest son stand up,
As Rodger's sons did all:
But the usurper keeps the throne,
Which did begin their fall.
Then Philip into Scotland came,
Unable to endure;
That they who earldoms had possest,
Of nought should be secure.
The king of Scots well knew the worth
Of men of noble race,
Who in no time of ages past,
Their worth did once deface.
He in the Merse gives Philip lands,
Which afterwards he soon,
With the black Douglass did exchange
For Eastwood and Ponoon.

Where many ages they did live,
By king and country lov'd;
As men of valour and renown,
Who were with honour mov'd;
To shun no hazard, when they could
To either service do:
Thus did they live, thus did they spend
Their blood and money too:
At last earl Douglass did inform,
That to our king's disgrace:
An English earl had deeply swore,
He'd hunt in Chevychase;
And maugre all that Scots could do
Would kill and bear away
The choicest deer of Otterburn,
And best of harts would slay.
Our king sent his commands unto
Sir Hugh Montgomerie,
And told him Douglass wanted men
Who fight could, but not flee.

* The stout sir Hugh himself prepares,
The Douglass to support;
And with him took his eldest son;
Then did they all resort
Unto the field, with their brave men,
Where most of them did die;
Of fifteen hundred warlike Scots
Came home but fifty three.
Douglass was slain, sir Hugh again
The battle did renew;
He made no stand, with his own hand
The earl Percie he slew.
Sir Hugh was slain, sir John maintain'd
The honour of the day;
And with him brought the victory,
And Percy's son away.
He with his ransom built Ponoon,
A castle which yet stands;
The king well pleas'd as a reward
Did therefore give him lands.

* Histories of Scotland.

And some time after gave his niece,
Of Eglintoun the heir,
To sir Hugh's representative;
Thus joined was this pair.
As with her came a great estate;
So by her did descend,
Her royal blood to * Lennox house,
Which did in Darnly end,
Who father was to James the sixth,
Of Britain the first king,
Whose royal race unto this day,
Doth o'er great Britain reign.
Since you are come of royal blood,
And kings are sprung from you,
See that with greatest zeal and love,
Those virtues ye pursue,
Which to those honours rais'd your house,
And shall without all stain,
In heralds books your ensigns flowr'd,
And counter-flowr'd maintain.

* Earl of Lennox

FINIS.

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